

# MANUFACTURING EXTENSION PARTNERSHIP

## Success Stories from the Field

### CMC/Cygnus

#### Catalyst Connection

#### Cygnus Manufacturing Company Improves Performance with New Layout

##### Client Profile:

Cygnus Manufacturing Company, founded in 1964, manufactures non-invasive medical device products, components for scientific instrumentation, health & safety, transportation and aerospace applications. The company employs 55 people at its facility in Saxonburg, Pennsylvania.

##### Situation:

Cygnus Manufacturing Company was awarded the bid to supply high precision, fabricated components and assemblies to the prime contractor for New York City subway cars. The company recognized that their manufacturing process needed to be more efficient to meet the demand of a new customer. They contacted Catalyst Connection, a NIST MEP network affiliate, for assistance.

##### Solution:

Catalyst Connection's Lean manufacturing expert, Tracy Alim, worked with the Cygnus Manufacturing Company's team to implement Lean manufacturing process improvements. First, Catalyst Connection assessed the layout design criteria by examining product volumes and families in the fabrication area. Working with the company, Tracy designed a new fabrication area using 5S principles, cellular manufacturing, kanbans and point-of-use storage. Tracy facilitated the new design setup and standardized work procedures that impact this area. Finally, Catalyst Connection provided coaching on the usage of the new layout and visual management to ensure that team members understand how their work impacts overall deliverables and company performance.

##### Results:

- \* Reduced scrap by 5 percent.
- \* Increased productivity by 50 percent.
- \* Reduced takt time per subway car by 10 percent.
- \* Freed up 2,700 square feet of floor space.

##### Testimonial:

"With Lean manufacturing, we were able to double our output of a complex, time-consuming fabricated product with the same size workforce."

Dennis Meteny, President and CEO